

AP European History

Section II

Part A

(Suggested writing time – 45 minutes)

Percent of Section II score – 45

Directions: The following question is based on the accompanying Documents 1-12. (Some documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise.) Write your answer on the lined pages of the pink essay booklet.

This question is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. As you analyze the documents, take into account both the sources and the author's point of view. Write an essay on the following topic that integrates your analysis of the documents; in no case should documents simply be cited and explained in a “laundry list” fashion. You may refer to historical facts and developments not mentioned in the documents.

1. Using specific information from the following documents, assess the validity of the following statement: *The benefits of the economic and technological advances gained during the Industrial Revolution justify the ill treatment of workers during the time period.*

Historical Setting: The Industrial Revolution, which began in England in the mid-18th century, was a period that brought great change to both western society and the lives of the people. Mass production replaced cottage industry output that was often less-than-reliable, and the search for raw materials and new markets spurred a frenzy of imperialistic action by the major industrial powers.

DOCUMENT 1

What was the consequence if you had been too late?

- I was most commonly beaten.

Severely?

- Very severely, I thought.

In those mills is chastisement towards the latter part of the day going on perpetually?

- Perpetually.

So that you can hardly be in a mill without hearing constant crying?

- Never an hour, I believe.

Do you think that if the over-looker were naturally a humane person it would still be found necessary for him to beat the children, in order to keep up their attention and vigilance at the termination of those extraordinary days of labor?

- Yes; the machines turns off a regular quantity of cardings, and of course, the must keep as regularly to their work the whole of the day; they must keep with the machine, and therefore however humane the slubber may be, as he must keep up with the machine or be found fault with, he spurs the children to keep up also by various means but that which he commonly resorts to is to strap them when they become drowsy.

At the time when you were beaten for not keeping up with your work, were you anxious to have done it if you possibly could?

- Yes; the dread of being beaten if we could not keep up with our work was a sufficient impulse to keep us to it if we could.

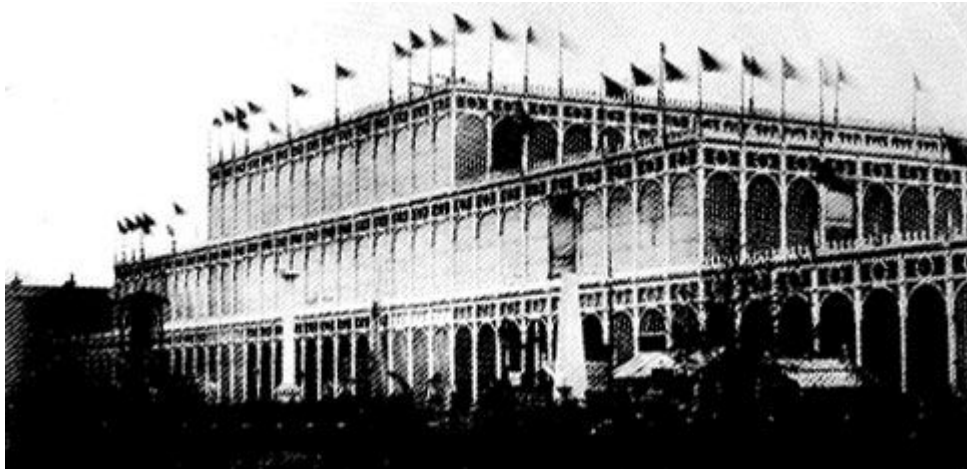
Testimony of Matthew Crabtree, 22 year-old called to testify before the Sadler Committee about his experiences as a child laborer in an English factory, 1832

DOCUMENT 2

“ . . . Nothing is now done directly, or by hand; all is by rule and calculated contrivance. For the simplest operation, some helps and accompaniments, some cunning abbreviating process is in readiness . . . What wonderful accessions have thus been made, and are still making, to the physical power of mankind; how much better fed, clothed, lodged and, in all outward respects, accommodated men now are, or might be, by a given quantity of labour, is a grateful reflection which forces itself on every one. What changes, too, this addition of power is introducing into the Social System; how wealth has more and more increased, and at the same time gathered itself more and more into masses, strangely altering the old relations, and increasing the distance between the rich and the poor, will be a question for Political Economists, and a much more complex and important one than any they have yet engaged with.”

Excerpt from Thomas Carlyle's "Signs of the Times: The "Mechanical Age" (1829)

DOCUMENT 3



The Crystal Palace (1851)

DOCUMENT 4

The Rate of Industrial Growth in the United Kingdom
Indices of Industrial Production
(Base Figures – 1905-13=100)

1781-90	3.8%
1801-14	7.1%
1825-34	18.8%
1845-54	27.5%
1865-74	49.2%
1885-94	70.5%
1905-13	100.0%

% OF WORLD INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION IN 1913 – 14.0

DOCUMENT 5

“Factory labor is a species of work, in some respects singularly unfitted for children. Cooped up in a heated atmosphere, debarred the necessary exercise, remaining in one position for a series of hours, one set or system of muscles alone called into activity, it cannot be wondered at – that its effects are injurious to the physical growth of a child. Where the bony system is still imperfect, the vertical position it is compelled to retain, influences its direction; the spinal column bends beneath the weight of the head, bulges out laterally, or is dragged forward by the weight of the parts composing the chest, the pelvis yields beneath the opposing pressure downwards, and the resistance given by the thigh-bones; its capacity is lessened, sometimes more and sometimes less; the legs curve, and the whole body loses height, in consequence of this general yielding and bending of its parts.”

Excerpt from The Manufacturing Population of England (1833) by P. Gaskell, a medical observer

DOCUMENT 6

“This island is pre-eminent among civilized nations for the prodigious development of its factory wealth, and has been therefore long viewed with a jealous admiration by foreign powers . . . The blessings which physio-mechanical science has bestowed on society, and the means it has still in store for ameliorating the lot of mankind, have been too little dwelt upon; while on the other hand, it has been accused of lending itself to the rich capitalists as an instrument for harassing the poor, and of exacting from the operative an acceleration rate of work. It has been said, for example, that the steam-engine now drives the power-looms with such velocity as to urge on their attendant weavers at the same rapid pace; but that the hand-weaver, not being subjected to this restless agent, can throw his shuttle and move his treddles at his convenience. There is, however, this difference in the two cases, that in the factory, every member of the loom is so adjusted, that the driving force leaves the attendant nearly nothing at all to do, certainly no muscular fatigue to sustain, while it procures for him good, unfailing wages, besides a healthy workshop *gratis*; whereas the non-factory weaver, having everything to execute by muscular exertion, finds the labour irksome, makes in consequence innumerable short pauses, separately of little account, but great when added together; earns therefore proportionally low wages, while he loses his health by poor diet and the dampness of his hovel . . .”

Excerpt from The Philosophy of Manufacturers (1835), by Andrew Ure, a professor at the University of Glasgow and an enthusiast for the new manufacturing system

DOCUMENT 7

“When women have children thick (fast) they are compelled to take them down early. I have been married 19 years and have had 10 borns; seven are in life. When on Sir John’s work was a carrier of coals, which caused me to miscarry five times from the strains, and was ill after each. Putting is no so oppressive; last child was born on Saturday morning, and I was at work on the Friday night . . . Once met with an accident; a coal brake my cheek-bone, which kept me idle some weeks . . . I have wrought below 30 years, and so has the guid man; he is getting touched in the breath now. None of the children read, as the work is no regular. I did read once, but no able to attend to it now; when I go below lassie 10 years of age keeps house and makes the broth or stir-about . . .”

Testimony of Isabel Wilson, a 38 year-old coal putter; gathered by Ashley’s Mines Commission, 1842

DOCUMENT 8

“Oh my friends, the down-trodden operatives of Coketown! Oh my friends and fellow countrymen, the slaves of an iron-handed and a grinding despotism! Oh my friends and fellow-sufferers, and fellow-workmen, and fellow-men! I tell you that the hour is come, when we must rally round one another as One united power, and crumble into dust the oppressors that too long have battered upon the plunder of our families, upon the sweat of our brows, upon the labour of our hands, upon the strength of our sinews, upon the God-created glorious rights of Humanity, and upon the holy and eternal privileges of Brotherhood!”

‘Good!’ ‘Hear, hear, hear!’ ‘Hurrah!’ and other cries arose in many voices from various parts of the densely crowded and suffocatingly close Hall . . .”

Speech of a pro-factory regulation orator in Charles Dickens’ novel, Hard Times (1854)

DOCUMENT 9

It is alleged that the children who labour in factories are often cruelly beaten by the spinners or overlookers that their feeble limbs become distorted by continual standing and stooping, and they grow up cripples. That they are compelled to work thirteen, fourteen or fifteen hours per day. Views such as these have been repeatedly given of factory labour which have persuaded many to think they must be true. But this is the exception not the rule . . . If a spinner can now produce as much in a day as he could last century have produced in a year, and if goods which formerly required eight months to bleach, are now bleached in two days, surely these are the very causes of the amazing extension of the manufacture, and are therefore, subjects of rejoicing, not of lamentation

Excerpt from The History of the Cotton Manufacture (1835), by Edward Baines, a factory owner

DOCUMENT 10

Here, then, is the “curse” of our factory-system; as improvements in machinery have gone on, the “avarice of masters” has prompted many to exact more labour from their hands than they were fitted by nature to perform, and those who have wished for the hours of labour to be less for all ages than the legislature would even yet sanction, have had no alternative but to conform more or less to the prevailing practice, or abandon the trade altogether. This has been the case with regard to myself and my partners. We have never worked more than *seventy-one* hours a week before Sir JOHN HOBHOUSES’S Act was passed. We then came down to *sixty-nine*; and since Lord ALTHORP’S Act was passed, in 1833, we have reduced the time of adults to *sixty-seven and a half hours* a week, and that of children under thirteen years of age to *forty-eight* hours in the week, though to do this latter has, I must admit, subjected us to much inconvenience, but the elder hands to more, inasmuch as the relief given to the child is in some measure imposed on the adult. But the overworking does not apply to children only; the adults are also overworked. The increased speed given to machinery within the last thirty years, has, in very many instances, doubled the labour of both.”

Excerpt from The Curse of the Factory System (1836) by John Fielden, a Lancashire factory owner

DOCUMENT 11

The fabrics made from wool or linen vanished, while the old loom-shops being insufficient, every lumber-room, even old barns, cart-houses, and outbuildings of any description were repaired, windows broke through the old blank walls, and all fitted up for loom-shops. This source of making room being at length exhausted, new weavers' cottages with loom-shops rose up in every direction; all immediately filled, and when in full work the weekly circulation of money as the price of labour only rose to five times the amount ever before experienced in this sub-division, every family bringing home weekly 40, 60, 80, 100, or even 120 shillings per week! ! ! . . .

. . . the operative weavers on *machine yarns*, both as cottagers and small farmers, even with three times their former rents, they might be truly said to be placed in a higher state of "wealth, peace, and godliness," by the great demand for, and high price of, their labour, than they had ever before experienced. Their dwellings and small gardens clean and neat, - all the family well clad, - the men with each a watch in his pocket, and the women dressed to their own fancy, - *the church crowded to excess every Sunday*, - every house well furnished with a clock in elegant mahogany or fancy case, - handsome tea services in Staffordshire ware, with silver or plated sugar-tongs and spoons, - Birmingham, Potteries, and Sheffield wares for necessary use and ornament, wherever a corner cupboard or shelf could be placed to *shew them off*, - many cottage families had their cow, paying so much for the summer's grass, and about a statute acre of land laid out for them in some croft or corner, which they dressed up as a meadow for hay in the winter.

Excerpt from Origin of the New System of Manufacture, Commonly Called Power loom Weaving (1828) by William Radcliffe

DOCUMENT 12

young female factory workers; 1800s



The Industrial Revolution

Checklist for the DBQ essay

Thesis addresses question	
Topic sentences address thesis statement	
Majority of documents used	
Supports thesis with document evidence	
Understands meaning of documents	
Analyzes bias or POV in 3 or more documents	
Groups docs in 2 or more ways	
Includes outside info	